



Department of Energy Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center
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For Immediate Release

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DOE Seeks Comments on Santa Susana Field Laboratory Area IV Environmental Impact Statement

Canoga Park, CA – The Department of Energy (DOE) today issued an Advance Notice of Intent (ANOI) for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the remediation of the 290-acre Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) Area IV. The ANOI will be published in the *Federal Register*.

An EIS is a document required of Federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major projects or legislative proposals that significantly affect the environment. It is used to examine beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed action and alternatives.

DOE is issuing the ANOI to request early comments and assistance from Federal and State regulatory agencies, State and local governments, natural resources trustees, members of the public and other interested parties on the scope of the EIS, proposed environmental issues and any potential environmental impacts related to DOE's potential activities at SSFL Area IV.

Located in the hills between Chatsworth and Simi Valley, CA, the 2,850-acre SSFL is owned by The Boeing Company and small portions by NASA. SSFL was developed as a remote site to test rocket engines and conduct nuclear research.

DOE performed research work on 90 acres at the former Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) within SSFL Area IV. The former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) built a small nuclear power plant to deliver energy to the commercial grid at the lab and performed research that included nuclear powered space vehicles and sodium coolant mediums at 10 small reactors. All ETEC nuclear research work was completed in 1988.

DOE invites members of the public to provide input on what should be the scope of the Area IV EIS, suggested alternatives, environmental issues to be considered and environmental impacts that should be analyzed or considered as the Department prepares the EIS. Members of the public are asked to contact Stephanie Jennings, DOE NEPA Document Manager, Area IV SSFL EIS, at (818) 466-8162, or e-mail at: stephanie.jennings@em.doe.gov

The Department is in the process of obtaining a contractor to perform the EIS. DOE recently amended the date for receipt of contractor proposals from October 10 to October 24, 2007.

The Department will continue to move forward with due regard for protection of human health and the environment and comply with the court order, and State and Federal regulations while working cooperatively with the State of California, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, elected officials and stakeholders throughout the EIS process.

This ANOI and additional information about Area IV and ETEC will be available at a new location on the internet at: www.etec.energy.gov/. Further information about NEPA can be found at: www.eh.doe.gov/NEPA.

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